

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph at page 2, lines 4-12, as follows:

Use of a laser beam in perforation or other processing has been increasing in view of the processing rate achieved or the facility in changing the shape of the processed hole or in view of easiness in forming a hole with a high circularity. In the following, a conventional apparatus for perforating various work pieces, especially ceramic green sheets using a laser beam will be briefly described with reference to ~~a drawing~~ FIG. 6.

Please amend the paragraph at page 2, line 13 to page 3, line 4, as follows:

This apparatus includes a laser oscillator 101 for generating a laser beam used for processing, a guide laser oscillation apparatus 102 for generating a guide laser beam, an optical system 120 for shaping the guide laser beam and the processing laser beam and guiding them to a predetermined position on a work piece 103, an XY stage 104 for moving the work piece 103 placed on it in the X and Y directions, a camera 105 for capturing the shape of the guide laser incident on the work piece 103 or the shape of a processed hole etc. as an image and used for positioning of the work piece, and a control system 110 for driving these components. The guide laser (for example, red light) is projected onto the work piece previously, so that correction of the position at which the laser for actual processing is projected or correction of the shape of the laser is effected based on the projection position and shape of the guide laser.

Please amend the paragraph at page 3, line 19 to page 4, line 9, as follows:

The processing laser beam and the guide laser beam pass through the opening 124a of the mask 124, whereby they are shaped into a form corresponding to a hole to be formed such as a approximately circular form etc. ~~[[.]]~~ The laser beam after transmitted (passing) through

the mask is a little divergent, and it is necessary to reshape it into parallel light using a collimator lens or the like. For this purpose, the laser beam after shaping is deflected by the total reflection mirror 126 so as to enter the collimator lens ~~[[128]]~~ 127. The irradiation position of the laser beam having been made into parallel light by the collimator lens 127 is moved by the XY galvano scanner mirror 128 and the $f\theta$ lens 129 in such a way that it is delivered to a desired processing position on the work piece 103. The XY galvano scanner mirror 128 and the $f\theta$ lens 129 function together as an irradiation position control optical system for the laser beam.

Please amend the paragraph at page 12, line 21 to page 13, line 8, as follows:

The first optical path system 30 includes total reflection mirrors 31 and 32 and ~~[[an]]~~ a beam expander 35. In this optical system, the laser beam arrives at the expander 35 without being blocked by any means. The irradiation diameter of the laser beam is enlarged by the expander so that a predetermined area can be irradiated with the laser beam, and then the laser beam is guided to the optical path switching mirror 9. No structure that may partially block the laser beam is disposed in the optical path of the laser beam passing through the first optical path system 30. Therefore, it is possible to make the most part of the processing laser emitted from the laser oscillator 1 to be incident on the work piece directly.